



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

DEC 18 2001

Reply To
Attn Of: OEC-164

Governor Gary Locke
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002


Dear Governor Locke:

My brief tenure as the Regional Administrator for Region 10 of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency since October has confirmed my impression about the number and complexity of factors that affect federal and state efforts to protect the environment. The proximity of the international boundary with Canada is a perfect example of such complexity

It is clear to me that collaboration is essential when it comes to protecting the environment near the boundary with Canada. Fortunately, we have a number of formal agreements already in place that call for and authorize just such collaboration, including the *British Columbia-Washington State Environmental Cooperation Council*, the *United States-Canada Air Quality Agreement*, and the *Canada-United States Statement of Cooperation on the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound Ecosystem*. Under this latter agreement, federal, state, provincial and local environmental agencies on both sides of the border are actively working together to develop a more seamless approach to protection of air quality in the Georgia Basin - Puget Sound region. Tribes and Canadian First Nations are involved. People engaged in this effort are working on a variety of tasks and are making very real progress.

EPA and the Washington Department of Ecology are providing important leadership in this air quality project. I see this leadership as a natural responsibility and assure you of my support for the project and for the leadership necessary to make it successful. I look forward to working with you toward that end. The EPA point of contact on this project is Clark Gaulding; he can be reached at (206) 553-1849

Sincerely,


L. John Iani
Regional Administrator

cc Tom Fitzsimmons, Washington Department of Ecology
Don Fast, Environment Canada, Pacific Yukon Region

